

ANATOMY & CELL BIOLOGY

NEWSLETTER

DECEMBER 2023

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EDID Launch Event

March 1st, 2024

NRD 2024

February 22nd & 23rd, 2024

LHRD

May 7th, 2024

UPCOMING SEMINARS

January 19th, 2024
January 26th, 2024
February 2nd, 2024
February 9th, 2024
February 16th, 2024
February 23rd, 2024

STAY IN THE LOOP

Tag us at [#westernuACB](#)



ACB Events
Calendar



@westernuACB



ACB Graduate
Council



HAPPY HOLIDAYS

Sending Warm Wishes to the Western Community for a Safe and Joyful Holiday Season. As we approach the end of the year, we want to wish everyone in the Western community the very best for the upcoming holiday season and the new year ahead. Check out the [video message](#) from Dr. Alan Shephard, along with several other voices from around campus.

WINTER BREAK

Western will close for the holidays on Saturday, December 23, 2023 at 6:30 a.m. and will reopen at 6:30 a.m. on Thursday, January 4, 2024.

DEPARTMENTAL UPDATES

We welcome [Dr. Shawn Whitehead](#) into the role of Acting Departmental Chair, effective January 1, 2024 - March 31, 2024, while [Dr. Alison Allan](#) is on study leave.

[Haley Linklater](#), captured a photo of [Hannah Taylor](#) modeling the labs head lamps while hard at work.



CONGRATULATIONS

Congratulations to [Salonee Patel \(Allman/Whitehead Labs\)](#) on successfully defending her PhD thesis examination entitled "Cognitive, neurophysiological, and molecular alterations following noise-induced hearing loss."



SHOW YOUR ACB

PRIDE

SPIRIT WEAR COMING SOON!



SCHOLARSHIPS, AWARDS & GRANTS

Congratulations to **Alireza Ghahramani (Berube Lab)** who was awarded a Lawson Internal Research Fund Studentship

Congratulations to Dr. Armen Parsyan, who recently received the following grants and awards:

- The Department of Surgery Internal Research Grant for the project entitled "Investigation of Artemis/DCLRE1C in Triple Negative Breast Cancer Pathogenesis and Radiation Resistance."
- The Department of Surgery, Clinician-Scientist Award
- Successful co-applicant with Dr. Paula Foster for the 2023 LRCP Catalyst Grants for Translational Cancer Research Competition in Translational Cancer Metastasis Research, for the Development of MPI Lymphography

Congratulations to **Dr. Vanessa Dumeaux** and co-investigators, **Dr. Armen Parsyan**, and Muriel Brackstone on receiving the Canadian Institutes of Health Research (CIHR)/ Cancer Research Society Partnership Grant in Breast Cancer Research.

Congratulations to **Noor Rizvi** (MSc, Biochemistry) and **Aybars Nazlica** (PhD, ACB) from the **Dumeaux Lab** for both receiving a Breast Cancer Canada Translational Breast Cancer Research Unit (TBCRU) Scholarship

We want to feature your new publications here!

submit them to anatomy@uwo.ca

NEW PUBLICATIONS

O'Donnell BL & Penuela S (2023). Skin in the game: pannexin channels in healthy and cancerous skin. *Biochem J.* 480, 1929–1949. <https://doi.org/10.1042/BCJ20230176>

Dumeaux, V., Massahi, S., Bettauer, V., Mottola, A., Dukovny, A., Khurdia, S. S., Costa, A. C. B. P., Omran, R. P., Simpson, S., Xie, J. L., Whiteway, M., Berman, J., & Hallett, M. T. (2023). *Candida albicans* exhibits heterogeneous and adaptive cytoprotective responses to antifungal compounds. *eLife*, 12, e81406. <https://doi.org/10.7554/eLife.81406>

El-Cheikh Mohamad A, Möhrle D, Haddad FL, Rose A, Allman BL, Schmid S. Assessing the Cntnap2 knockout rat prepulse inhibition deficit through prepulse scaling of the baseline startle response curve. *Transl Psychiatry*. 2023 Oct 18;13(1):321. doi: 10.1038/s41398-023-02629-6.

Librais GMN, Jiang Y, Iqra R, Brandl CJ, Shapiro RS, Lajoie P. Evolutionary diversity of the control of the azole response by Tra1 across yeast species. *G3 (Bethesda)*. 2023 Oct 27;jkad250. doi: 10.1093/g3journal/jkad250.

Quesnel, K.M., Martin-Kenny, N. & Bérubé, N.G. A mouse model of ATRX deficiency with cognitive deficits and autistic traits. *J Neurodevelopmental Disord* 15, 39 (2023). <https://doi.org/10.1186/s11689-023-09508-7>

Verma, S., Young, S., Kennedy, T.A.C., Carvalhana, I., Black, M., Baer, K., Churchman, E., Warner, A., Allan, A.L., Louie, A.V., Palma, D., and Breadner, D. Detection of circulating tumor DNA after stereotactic ablative radiotherapy in patients with unbiopsied lung tumors (SABR-DETECT). *Clinical Lung Cancer* (2023), Epub ahead of print: <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.clcc.2023.11.013>

Lucaciu, S. A., Leighton, S. E., Hauser, A., Yee, R., & Laird, D. W. (2023). Diversity in connexin biology. *The Journal of biological chemistry*, 299(11), 105263. <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.jbc.2023.105263>

PRESENTATIONS & CONFERENCES

Dr. Susanne Schmid and members of her lab attended the Society for Neuroscience's annual conference in Washington D.C. Four of her PhD students – Ala Seif, Alaa El-Cheick Mohamad, Ella Doornaert, and Alice Zheng – presented either a poster or a talk at the event.



Members of the [Shepherd Lab](#) attended at the We Spark Health Research Conference ([Home](#) | [WeSpark Conference](#)) on November 4th in Windsor, Where [Jack Webb](#) won a Rapid Fire Presentation award and [Tiffany Johnston](#) won a poster presentation award.

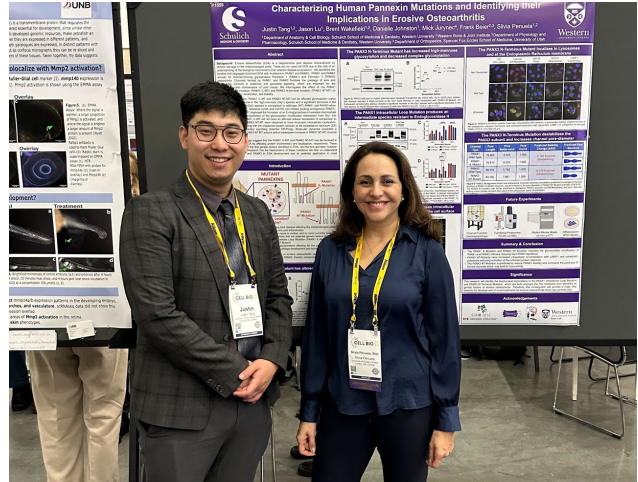
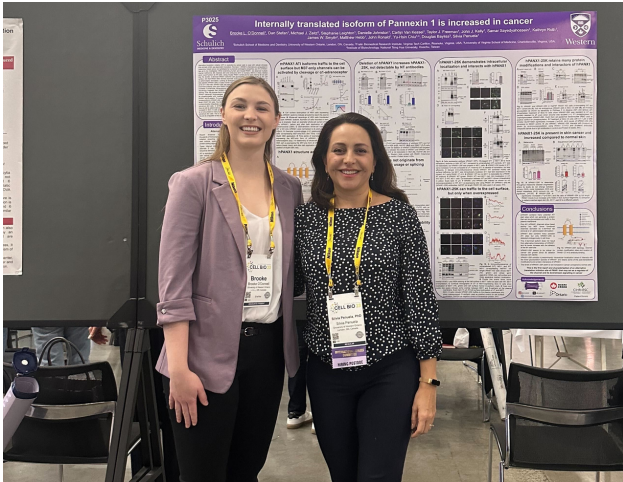


[Harjot Athwal](#) ([Parsyan Lab](#)) presented her research on the anticancer effects of radiation therapy and PLK4 inhibitor, CFI-400945, triple-negative breast cancer, at the Western Organoid Workshop, London, ON (abstract) on November 2nd, and the Canadian Cancer Research Conference, Halifax, NS (poster presentation), November 12-14th.

[Alireza Ghahramani](#) ([Berube Lab](#)), presented his research on “Unravelling the Impact of Neurexin-1 α Deletion on Neural Development” at the CEEHRC 9th Annual Canadian Conference on Epigenetics on November 13-16.

[Dr. Vasudeva Bhat](#) ([Allan/ Parsyan Lab](#)) presented an impromptu seminar entitled “Understanding Metastasis and Radioresistance in Triple Negative Breast Cancer” in the Departments weekly Seminar Series on October 6th.

PRESENTATIONS & CONFERENCES CONT...



Members of the [Penuela Lab](#) traveled to Boston, MA to attend Cell Bio 2023 from Dec 2-6, where [Brooke O'Donnell](#) (Penuela Lab) and [Justin Tang](#) (Penuela Lab/Beier Lab) presented posters. The posters were titled 'Internally translated isoform of Pannexin 1 is increased in cancer' and 'Characterizing Human Pannexin Mutations and Identifying their Implications in Erosive Osteoarthritis', respectively.

UPCOMING CAMPUS EVENTS



NEUROSCIENCE RESEARCH DAY 2024

Save the Date for the Society of Neuroscience Graduate Students (SONGS) 6th annual Neuroscience Research Day (NRD) on February 22nd and 23rd.

Neuroscience Research Day

LONDON HEALTH RESEARCH DAY

Mark your calendars for the 2024 London Health Research Day, taking place on Tuesday, May 7 at the Mustang Lounge on Western University Campus. More details and calls for registration will follow in the new year.



ACB GIVES BACK

ST. JOHN'S HOSPITALITY DINNER

St. John's requires the ongoing support of Volunteers to help prepare and serve food at the community dinners. To register, please add your name to the volunteer sign up sheet by [clicking here](#)



HOLIDAY INITIATIVE

Thank you to everyone who contributed to our Holiday Gift Card Drive. With your help, we were able to collect over 46 gift cards, totaling \$270, which will be distributed by 519Pursuit to those in need this holiday season.

PAST ACB EVENTS MOVEMBER TRIVIA

November concluded with a rowdy game night at the Grad Club, organized by Paul Collie, where 7 teams faced off in some hard-fought trivia! We raised \$125 in trivia tickets, as well as an additional \$240 in last-minute trivia donations. A special shoutout to “The Innominates” team, consisting of [Drs. Tim Wilson](#), [Michele Barbeau](#), [Andrew Deweyert](#), and Adam Forester, who placed first - with their PhD-level trivia skills propelling them to the top. We would also like to thank this team for their generous contributions of almost \$200 in Movember donations!

ACB DOOR DECORATING

The fourth floor got a festive makeover this month. Huge thanks to everyone who joined in and added a dash of holiday magic to our halls!



PAST ACB EVENTS CONT...

ACB HOLIDAY SOCIAL

A huge thank you to everyone who brought the holiday spirit to life at The Wave on Friday, December 15th, celebrating the season with us at this year's Holiday Social. Your presence made the festivities unforgettable! Wishing you all a joyous holiday season, and we can't wait to see you in 2024!

